

FOREIGN GRADUATES:

1) What procedure must foreign pharmacy school graduates follow to obtain a Maryland pharmacist license?

NABP provides the FPGEC Certification program as a means of documenting the educational equivalency of a candidate's foreign pharmacy education, as well as the license and/or registration. In the process of FPGEC Certification, candidates provide documents that verify their educational backgrounds and licensure and/or registration. Candidates are also required to pass the Foreign Graduate Equivalency Examination (FPGEE), the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), and the Test of Spoken English (TSE). The FPGEC Certificate allows foreign graduates to partially fulfill eligibility requirements for licensure in Maryland.

The FPGEC Certificate is not a license to practice pharmacy. Applicants who receive the FPGEC Certificate may be qualified by Maryland to take the pharmacy licensing examination. It is the candidate's responsibility to confirm with the Maryland board that all requirements regarding FPGEC Certification as eligibility for licensure, citizenship, residency, and any other requirements for eligibility for licensure, including completion of experiential programs.

2) Do foreign graduate pharmacist candidates need to pass the Foreign Graduate Equivalency Examination (FPGEE) or earn their FPGEE certificate prior to starting the Pharmacy Experience Program in Maryland?

Foreign graduate pharmacist candidates may earn internship hours before completing the FPGEE examination. The required total of internship hours in Maryland for Foreign graduates is 1560 hours. In addition, to qualify for a license in Maryland, applicants must obtain a passing grade of 75% or better on each of the following examinations:

- (a) The NAPLEX - can be taken after passing FPGEE and receiving FPGEC Certification
- (b) Multi-State Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) - can be taken after passing FPGEE and receiving FPGEC Certification

The NAPLEX and MPJE are administered by NABP, but may be taken at Sylvan Learning Center sites throughout the country and at designated Sylvan Learning Center in Maryland. Applicants must contact a licensed speech and language center to take the Oral English Examination. Nationwide, the Oral English Examination is offered at the Berlitz Language Centers. There is a Berlitz Language Center in Maryland 20 miles south of Baltimore. All examinations must be taken in person. Candidates must bring photo identification to all examination locations.

NABP Requirements:

Beginning January 1, 2003, NABP will require foreign-educated pharmacists to have earned their professional degree from a five-year curriculum program in order to apply for Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee® (FPGEC®) Certification. This change affects only those candidates who earn a pharmacy degree after the 2003 deadline. The new curriculum requirements do not apply to foreign-educated pharmacists who have earned a four-year degree prior to January 1, 2003. These individuals will remain eligible for FPGEC Certification under the current program requirements of a four-year curriculum

Candidates must have received their letter of Acceptance and Authorization to Test (ATT) from NABP to take the FPGEE. NABP issues the ATT once they approve the candidate's initial application documents and foreign college transcripts. The FPGEE is a paper and pencil examination. The examination is administered twice a year, usually in June and December. The

exam consists of 300, four-part, multi-choice questions that measure pharmacy content areas: general science; pharmaceutical sciences; biomedical/clinical sciences; and economic, social.

You must have your ATT before you can schedule an appointment to take the FPGEE, If you lose your ATT, please contact NABP "FPGEC Program Contacts" section.